



[10191/857]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Gerhard SCHNEIDER et al.
Serial No. : 09/176,124
Filed : October 21, 1998
For : **PLANAR SENSOR ELEMENT**
Art Unit : 1743
Examiner : Ta Tung

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Assistant Commissioner
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Date 10/17/2001 Atty's Reg. # 38,865

Atty's Signature AARON C. DEDICH

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

S I R:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on May 18, 2001, please reconsider the above-identified application based on the following:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend without prejudice the claims as follows:

1. (Four Times Amended) A planar sensor element for determining at least one gas component, comprising:
a layer structure including:
a measuring cell layer;
a covering layer;
a heating element disposed between the measuring cell layer and the covering layer and generating a heating power, a layer-shaped heating conductor being embedded in the heating element,
wherein the layer-shaped heating conductor is arranged in a layer plane of the layer structure to obtain an at least approximately homogeneous distribution of the heating power over a cross-section of the sensor element perpendicular to the layer structure.

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